

sent to such an amendment to my Motion as would make it include the officers of the Military Establishment if any Gentleman who thought a difference would be a degradation to the Militia officer would propose it: for that to degrade that description of men, or any other, I was as little inclined as any other Gentleman in the House or, perhaps, in the world.—

This, Sir, is the reasoning upon which I founded my opinion that it was proper to raise the pay of the privates & lower the pay of the officers of the Militia; But if I had not been of that opinion, knowing, as I did when I came here, that my Constituents were, I should have considered it my duty to exert my best abilities to support it: for I have always deemed it a primary Duty of a Representative of the people to yield his opinion to that of his Constituents on all Subjects which they have had as good an opportunity as himself of investigating, provided he knows their opinion & the knowledge of it is conveyed to him in writing or verbally, as in the present case, by way of Instruction—and on that principle, while I have the honor to be a Representative of my fellow Citizens, I shall always act.—Information was given me by the last post that John M. Binford has declared himself a [5] Candidate for Congress, & although it is probable that he may get a great many Votes in N^o. Ampton & I have reason to believe that his object in offering is merely to break my interest there to serve his friend Doctor Leigh who would, if he could, create Insurrection on Earth & tumult in Heaven to deprive me of the confidence of the people of the District & get himself into my present place, it does not in the smallest degree alarm me.—My wish is, that the people should have choice of many & chose the best; for tho' it would very highly gratify me to be rechosen, as a reelection would be the best & strongest Evidence of the continuation of the confidence of my Fellow Citizens which I am conscious of having honestly endeavor'd to deserve, I wish not to hold any office, or appointment that could be better filled by any other person willing to accept it.—Here I am interrupted by the entrance of Cap^t. Hammond who tells me he has just left the Sloop Sally at Anchor before the City—She was got off by the Negroe on Friday Morning last. Hammond says the injury She has rec^d. may be repaired in one day & M^r Barr, who is now with me, says she shall be repaired tomorrow & sail the next day, or day after, say Wednesday, for Washington—The Negroe is a clever fellow & for